CHARTER, BY-LAWS

AND

RULES OF GOVERNMENT

OF

Zion P. E. Church,

COLUMBIA AVENUE AND EIGHTH STREET,

PHILADELPHIA.

PHILADELPHIA:
SPANGLER & DAVIS, PRINTERS, 25 NORTH SIXTH STREET, OPPOSITE CITY BANK.
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CHARTER

OF

ZION P. E. CHURCH.

WHEREAS, the following named persons, citizens of this Commonwealth, viz: Rev. Jacob M. Douglass, John H. Bringhurst, John B. Lever, David Young, Christopher Binder, E. Hall Ogden, Dell Noblit, Jr., William C. Haines, James R. Miller, William Finley, Francis M'Dowell, James Hughs, have, together with other citizens, associated themselves for the purpose of worshipping Almighty God, according to the faith and discipline of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and have, for that purpose formed a congregation at the North East corner of Eighth Street and Columbia Avenue, in the City of Philadelphia, and are now desirous of being incorporated according to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, entitled, "An Act to confer on certain associations of citizens of this Commonwealth, the powers and immunities of corporations, or bodies politic in law and the supplements thereto," they therefore declare the following to be the objects, articles and conditions of their said Association, agreeably to which they desire to be incorporated, viz:

First.—The name of the corporation shall be "The Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of Zion Protestant Episcopal Church of Philadelphia."

Second.—The Church acknowledges itself to be a member of, and to belong to the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania and the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, as such it accedes to, recognizes and adopts the Constitution, Canons, Doctrine, Discipline and Worship of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania and the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, and acknowledges their authority accordingly. Any member of this Church or corporation, who shall disclaim or refuse conformity to the said authority, shall cease to be a member of this corporation, and shall not be elected or vote in the election of Vestrymen, or exercise any office or function in, concerning or connected with the said church or corporation.

Third.—The rents and revenues of this Corporation shall be, from time to time, applied for the maintenance and support of the Rector, Ministers and Officers of the said Church, and in the erection and necessary repairs of the church, church-yard, parsonage-house, and other houses which now do, or hereafter shall belong to the said corporation, and to no other use or purpose whatever. Provided that all the property of the said corporation shall be taken, held and enure subject to the control and disposition of the Vestry of the same; and provided, that the clear annual value or income of the real and personal estate held by the said corporation, shall not at any time exceed the sum of five thousand dollars.

Fourth.—The Rector of this Church shall be elected by the Wardens and Vestrymen, in such manner as the Statutes and By-Laws shall ordain. The Vestry of said Church, shall consist of twelve persons, lay members of said Church and citizens of Pennsylvania, who shall continue in office for one year, and until others be chosen, and the election of whom shall be made every year on Easter Monday, by a majority of such members of said Church, who shall be recognized by the Rector and Wardens thereof, as usual attendants upon the services of the same and contributors to the Church for one year. Provided that until the next Easter Monday, after the expiration of five years from the date of this charter, members of said Church who shall in any way have contributed to the erection of the church or to the support of the Rector or Ministers thereof, shall be entitled to vote at the election of Vestrymen; and provided that in case of the failure to elect Vestrymen on that day, the corporation shall not on that account be dissolved, but the election shall be holden on some other day, in such manner as the By-Laws may prescribe, and any vacancy occurring in the Vestry, shall be supplied by the remaining members thereof. At the meeting of the Vestry, the Rector, if present, may preside, and in all matters, except such as concern the property of the corporation, shall be entitled in common with the several members of the Vestry to one vote.

Fifth.—No person shall be Rector, or Assistant Minister of this Church, unless he shall have had Episcopal Ordination, and unless he be in full standing with the Protestant Episcopal Church of the State of Pennsylvania, and in the United States, and recognized as such by the Bishop of this Diocese, or in the case of a vacancy in the Episcopate by the Standing Committee of the Diocese.

Sixth.—The said Vestry shall have full power to choose their own officers; and they shall annually, at the first meeting after their election, choose one of their own number to be one Church Warden, and the Rector, for the time being, shall select another of the said Vestrymen to be the other Church Warden of the said Church. In case of a vacancy in the office of Rector, at the time of the election, the other Church Warden shall also be chosen by the Vestry to remain until the election of a Rector, or a new election of the Vestry, and during such vacancy all the powers of the corporation shall be exercised by the Vestry, as fully and entirely as if no such vacancy had occurred. Provided always, that it shall be the duty of the said Church Wardens and Vestrymen to elect another Rector, to supply the vacancy as soon as conveniently may be.

Seventh.—This Charter may be amended in the following manner, that is to say: Any proposed amendment shall be submitted to a stated or special meeting of the Vestry, and if the same shall be approved by a majority of the whole of the members thereof, the same shall be submitted to a meeting of the members of the congregation, who are entitled to vote for Vestrymen, and if approved by a majority of the persons present at such meeting, the same shall be submitted to the next Convention, and if by it approved, shall be and form part of the Charter, upon the subsequent confirmation thereof by the Court, which granted the original Charter or other competent authority.

Eighth.—In case of the dissolution of the said corporation, all the property of the same shall vest in trustees in trust, to hold and convey the same to and for any future congregation of members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which may be formed in the same neighborhood, and to and for no other purpose, and the said trustees shall consist of such persons as may be appointed by the proper Court, on the application of any interested party.

Ninth.—The following named persons shall be the Church Wardens and Vestrymen, to continue in office until the election on Easter Monday next, 1864, and until others be chosen, viz:

Rector.

JOSEPH NEWTON MULFORD.

Wardens.

DELL NOBLIT, JR. JOHN B. LEVER.

Vestrymen.

Rev. Jacob M. Douglass,	John H. Bringhurst,
David Young,	E. Hall Ogden,
James R. Miller,	Christopher Binder,
William Finley,	Francis W. M'Dowell,
William C. Haines,	James Hughs.

I, William M. Meredith, Attorney-General of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that I have perused and examined the foregoing instrument of writing, and am of opinion that the objects, articles and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful.

Witness my hand this twenty-fourth day of February, at Harrisburg.

WILLIAM M. MEREDITH,
Attorney-General.

We, the Judges of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, have perused the foregoing instrument, and certify that the objects, articles and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful.

Witness our hands, at Philadelphia, this nineteenth day of March, A. D., 1864.

JAMES THOMPSON,
WILLIAM STRONG,
JOHN M. READ,
DANIEL AGNEW. } Justices of Supreme Court.

Eastern District of Pennsylvania: *ss.*

I, James Ross Snowden, Prothonotary of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania for the Eastern District, do hereby certify that the above instrument of writing was presented to the Justices of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, and was by them duly allowed as appears by their above certificate.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the said Supreme Court, at Philadelphia, this twenty-third day of March, 1864.

L. S.

JAMES ROSS SNOWDEN,
Prothonotary.

OFFICERS

OF

ZION P. E. CHURCH.

RECTOR.

JOSEPH NEWTON MULFORD, No. 1613 Franklin St.

VESTRY.

WARDENS.	Dell Noblit, Jr.,	No. 1630 Broad Street.
	Isaac A. Sheppard,	No. 989 N. Sixth St.
SECT'Y.—Francis W. M'Dowell,		No. 920 Mt. Vernon St.
	David Young,	No. 429 Market St.
	E. Hall Ogden,	No. 1333 Franklin St.
	James R. Miller,	No. 1618 " "
	Christopher Binder,	No. 1786 Marshall St.
	John B. Lever,	No. 1304 N. Second St.
	William C. Haines,	No. 1626 Franklin St.
	James Hughs,	No. 1300 North Third St.
	James C. Allen,	No. 1620 North Tenth St.
	William Finley,	No. 1526 Apple St.

SEXTON.

William D. Clark, No. 1418 Perth Street.

PREAMBLE.

In pursuance of the power in them vested by their Charter, "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Zion P. E. Church," for the well-governing and directing of the temporal affairs of the said Church, do ordain and enact the following

BY-LAWS.

ELECTION FOR VESTRYMEN.

1. All elections for Vestrymen shall be held at the church on Easter Monday, in each and every year, between the hours of four and six o'clock P. M.

2. Members of the congregation having been entered upon the Church Books as holders of pews or sittings for six months or more, and being of the age of twenty-one years or upwards, and not over three months in arrears for pew rent, shall be entitled to vote at such election.

3. Notice of all elections shall be read at least twice from the Pulpit or Reading Desk on Sunday immediately preceding the election, and the result on the subsequent Sunday.

4. All elections for Vestrymen shall be conducted by three members of the church, who shall be chosen by the Vestry at the meeting immediately preceding Easter Monday, and the Secretary shall notify them of their appointment.

At the close of the Poll, one of the Judges shall be appointed Secretary, whose duty it shall be to immediately notify the Rector as to the result of said election, and also to notify the members elect; and it shall be the duty of the Rector to convene the newly elected Vestry, for the purpose of organization, on the evening of Wednesday of Easter week, at 8 o'clock.

5. In case any person that may have been elected a Vestryman, should neglect or refuse to attend the stated meetings of the Vestry for a period of three months, the Vestry may, by a vote of two-thirds of the members present at a stated meeting, declare such member's seat vacant.

6. In case of any vacancy or vacancies, occurring in the Vestry, by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Vestry may at any subsequent meeting elect another member or other members, to serve until the next annual election.

OF MEETINGS.

7. The stated meetings of the Vestry shall be held on the third Monday in each month.

8. The Rector, or Wardens, or any three members of the Vestry shall have authority to call special meetings at any time, specifying the time and object of such meeting.

9. Written or printed notices, mentioning the time and place of meeting, shall be sent to each Vestryman, at least six hours before the time of meeting. Six Vestrymen, one of whom being a Warden, and the Rector, or Seven Vestrymen, one of whom being a Warden, or eight Vestrymen being assembled, shall constitute a quorum.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS BY THE VESTRY.

10. The Vestry shall, at their meeting on Wednesday of Easter week, elect by ballot, an Accounting Warden, a Secretary and as many delegates to the Diocesan Convention as the Church may be entitled to send to said Convention. The Rector shall also, at the same meeting, name his Warden.

11. In case a vacancy shall occur in the offices of Accounting Warden or Secretary, by death, resignation, or otherwise, the Vestry may, at any meeting thereafter, elect other members to those offices.

12. The Sexton and all other employees of the Corporation, shall be chosen by the Vestry, at such times and in such manner, and for such period, not exceeding one year, as they may deem expedient; and all such employees shall be subject to removal at any time, at the pleasure of the Vestry.

13. The Rector, or in his absence the presiding officer of the Vestry, shall annually, at the meeting of the Vestry on Wednesday of Easter week, appoint the following Standing Committees to consist of three members each:

Committee on Finance, to whom shall be referred all Bills and Claims against the Corporation, and said Committee, in conjunction with the Accounting Warden, shall have a general supervision of the financial affairs of the Corporation.

Committee on Music, who shall have charge and direction of the Choir.

Committee on Sunday Schools, whose duty it shall be to visit the Schools at least once in each quarter and report upon their condition and necessities.

Auditing Committee, whose duty it shall be annually to audit and settle the accounts of the Accounting Warden, and report thereon to the Vestry, at the last stated meeting preceding Easter.

OF THE CHURCH WARDENS.

14. It shall be the duty of the Wardens to enforce, or cause to be enforced, all laws, resolutions, orders and directions of the Vestry, unless the execution thereof be otherwise provided for.

All books and writings, belonging to the Corporation, together with the Seal, shall be deposited with the Accounting Warden.

It shall be the duty of the Accounting Warden, to receive all pew rents, dues, and other moneys whatsoever, which may be owing or payable to the Corporation, and on her behalf to sign and deliver sufficient receipts and discharges therefor; to pay all bills and orders, when payment thereof shall have been authorized by a resolution of the Vestry, but not otherwise, (except bills which shall not exceed the sum of twenty dollars each, and interest, ground rent and salaries, which he may pay without such resolution,) to keep in a book, to be the property of the Corporation, a correct account of his receipts and expenditures on her behalf, which he shall produce for the inspection of the Vestry or its committee, when required, and submit to the Vestry annually, at the last stated meeting preceding Easter, a detailed statement setting forth the receipts and expenditures of the corporation for the fiscal year then ending; the balance of moneys remaining in his hands, and the debts due to, and the amounts owing by the corporation.

The right to let the vacant pews and sittings, shall be vested in the Accounting Warden, and he shall report to the Vestry every six months, the names of those persons who are in arrears for six months pew rent.

It shall be the duty of the Rector's Warden to see to having the pulpit supplied in the event of the sickness or absence of the Rector; and, in the absence from the city of the Accounting Warden, or in case of his inability to perform the duties of his office, the same shall devolve upon, and be performed by the Rector's Warden.

OF THE SECRETARY.

15. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to issue notices to the members, of all meetings of the Vestry; he shall attend the meetings of the Vestry, keep regular and fair minutes of all their proceedings, and, if required, shall issue to the person first named on committees, a copy of the resolution under which they are to act.

ELECTION OF RECTOR.

16. When a Rector is to be chosen, nominations for that office shall be made at a stated meeting of the Vestry, and the election shall take

place at the subsequent stated meeting, unless it shall be postponed by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Vestry, and two-thirds of the members of the Vestry shall be necessary to elect a Rector.

CHURCH REGISTERS.

17. The Rector shall keep a correct register of marriages, baptisms and burials, for which purpose a book shall be provided by the Wardens.

DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY, MONEYS, &c.

18. All resolutions for the disposition of property, or the investment of moneys of the corporation, or for the augmentation or lessening of any salary, shall be offered at a meeting preceding the one upon which such resolution shall be considered; and notice that such resolution has been offered, shall be given to the members, previous to any consideration thereof; and no such resolution shall be adopted, unless at least eight members vote in favor of the same.

DELIVERY OF BOOKS, PAPERS, &c., TO SUCCESSORS.

19. The Wardens and Secretary shall deliver to their respective successors in office, all Books, Papers, and the Property of the corporation in their charge.

OF THE PEWS.

20. All Pew-rents shall become due and payable quarterly in advance, on the first day of January, April, July and October, in each and every year.

Any person renting a Pew or Sitting, who shall neglect to pay the rent of the same before the expiration of one month after it shall have become due, such person shall be notified by the Accounting Warden, and if the same be not paid within three months after such notice, such Pew or Sitting may be declared vacant, and rented to any other parties applying therefor.

THE BY-LAWS.

21. No addition to, or alteration of these By-Laws shall be made, unless eight members assent thereto, and notice of such proposed addition or alteration shall be submitted in writing, at least one month prior to action being taken thereon.

RULES FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF THE VESTRY.

1. The Rector shall preside at all meetings. In his absence, one of the Wardens shall preside. In the absence of the Rector and Wardens, one of the Vestrymen shall be chosen to preside. The Chairman shall be entitled to vote on all questions, except where otherwise provided for by the Charter.

2. The following shall be the order of business:—

I.—Prayer.

II.—Reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting by the Secretary.

III.—Call over the list of Committees.

IV.—Presentment of bills.

V.—Communications shall be read.

VI.—Other business.

3. At special meetings, the Vestry shall immediately proceed to the consideration of the business for which it shall have been specially convened.

4. All reports of Committees shall be made in writing, and all resolutions shall be so presented, if requested.

5. No motion shall be opened for debate until it be seconded, and stated by the Chairman.

6. All motions to re-consider, must be made and seconded by members, who voted in the majority.

7. The yeas and nays shall always be called when requested by two members, prior to the decision of the question.

8. Any member shall have the privilege of appealing from the decision of the Chair, on points of order.

9. A motion to adjourn shall always be in order, and the question shall be taken without debate.

10. No addition or alteration of these Rules shall be made, unless seven members assent thereto.